

We claim:

1. A method for navigating through a repository of graphical displays and maintain knowledge of the location of any display currently being viewed comprising the steps of:

5 displaying a main folder of directories in the repository from which a user can select one of the directories to navigate through to review graphical displays;

displaying the complete hierarchical information for a selected directory from the main folder of directories, hierarchical information includes the categories of graphical display sets for a selected entry in the directory;

10 displaying a viewing screen of the graphical display sets for a selected graphical display set, the viewing screen containing a row of buttons corresponding to the number of display sets in the selected category and a second row of buttons corresponding to the number of displays in a selected display set; and

displaying a graphical display corresponding to one of buttons selected from the row of buttons corresponding to the number of displays in a selected display set.

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2. The method as described in claim 1 wherein said step of displaying the complete hierarchical information for a selected directory from the main folder of directories further comprises:

20 a) displaying a set of entries for a selected directory from the main folder of directories;

b) determining whether the selected entry is a sub-directory;

c) when the selected entry is a sub-directory, displaying entries from the current sub-directory;

25 d) determining whether a selected entry in the current sub-directory is a sub-directory;

e) when the selected entry in the current sub-directory is a sub-directory, displaying entries from the current sub-directory; and

f) repeating steps (d) and (e) until a selected entry in a sub-directory is not a sub-directory.

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3. The method as described in claim 1 wherein said step of displaying a graphical display comprising initially displaying a thumbnail view of a selected graphical display prior to displaying a full view of the selected graphical display.

5 4. The method as described in claim 3 further comprising the step of displaying a full screen version of a selected graphical display following the initial thumbnail view of a selected graphical display.

10 5. The method as described in claim 3 further comprising for each directory that is a sub-directory the step of displaying the set of entries in that sub-director when a cursor moves over that entry.

15 6. The method as described in claim 2 further comprising the step of displaying a set of categories of graphical display groups, each group containing sets of graphical displays.

20 7. The method as described in claim 2 wherein said the step of displaying entries for a selected directory or sub-directory further comprises reading pointer information located in the selected directory and returning objects of the pointer.

8. The method as described in claim 7 wherein entries from a directory or sub-directory are displayed when a curser moves over a directory or sub-directory.

25 9. The method as described in claim 2 wherein a set of entries for an entry selected from a directory or subdirectory are displayed when the selected entry is a directory, sub-directory or display category set.

30 10. The method as described in claim 1 wherein said step of displaying the complete hierarchical information for a selected directory from the main folder of directories further comprises simultaneously displaying each selected directory and sub-directory as a window on the same display screen.

11. The method as described in claim 10 further comprising highlighting each selected entry in each selected directory or sub-directory.

5 12. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for navigating through a repository of graphical displays and maintain knowledge of the location of any display currently being viewed comprising:

instructions for displaying a main folder of directories in the repository from which a user can select one of the directories to navigate through to review graphical
10 displays;

instructions for displaying the complete hierarchical information for a selected directory from the main folder of directories, hierarchical information includes the categories of graphical display sets for a selected entry in the directory;

instructions for displaying a viewing screen of the graphical display sets for a
15 selected graphical display set, the viewing screen containing a row of buttons corresponding to the number of display sets in the selected category and a second row of buttons corresponding to the number of displays in a selected display set; and

instructions for displaying a graphical display corresponding to one of buttons selected from the row of buttons corresponding to the number of displays in a selected
20 display set.

13. The computer program product as described in claim 12 wherein said instructions for displaying the complete hierarchical information for a selected directory from the main folder of directories further comprises:

- 5 a) instructions for displaying a set of entries for a selected directory from the main folder of directories;
- b) instructions for determining whether the selected entry is a sub-directory;
- c) instructions for when the selected entry is a sub-directory, displaying entries from the current sub-directory;
- 10 d) instructions for determining whether a selected entry in the current sub-directory is a sub-directory;
- e) when the selected entry in the current sub-directory is a sub-directory, instructions for displaying entries from the current sub-directory; and
- f) instructions for moving from one sub-directory to another sub-directory until a selected entry in a sub-directory is not another sub-directory.

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14. The computer program product as described in claim 12 wherein said instructions for displaying a graphical display comprise instructions for initially displaying a thumbnail view of a selected graphical display prior to displaying a full view of the selected graphical display.

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15. The computer program product as described in claim 14 further comprising the instructions for displaying a full screen version of a selected graphical display following the initial thumbnail view of a selected graphical display.

25 16. The computer program product as described in claim 14 further comprising for each directory that is a sub-directory instructions for displaying the set of entries in that sub-director when a cursor moves over that entry.

17. The computer program product as described in claim 13 further comprising
30 instructions for displaying a set of categories of graphical display groups, each group containing sets of graphical displays.

18. The computer program product as described in claim 13 wherein said the instructions for displaying entries for a selected directory or sub-directory further comprises instructions for reading pointer information located in the selected directory
5 and returning objects of the pointer.

19. The computer program product as described in claim 18 further comprising instructions for displaying entries from a directory or sub-directory when a curser moves over a directory or sub-directory.

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20. The computer program product as described in claim 13 further comprising instructions for displaying a set of entries for an entry selected from a directory or subdirectory, when the selected entry is a directory, sub-directory or display category set.

15 21. The computer program product as described in claim 12 wherein said instructions for displaying the complete hierarchical information for a selected directory from the main folder of directories further comprises instructions for simultaneously displaying each selected directory and sub-directory as a window on the same display screen.

20 22. The computer program product as described in claim 21 further comprising instructions for highlighting each selected entry in each selected directory or sub-directory.

23. A system for navigating through a repository of graphical displays and maintain knowledge of the location of any display currently being viewed comprising:

a local computer;

5 a display repository housed in a containing graphical displays, aid displays being arranged into sets of displays and stored in said repository in a directory hierarchical tree configuration containing a series of sub-directories that link to the location of a display in said repository;

a computer network for establishing communication between said local computer and said display repository;

10 a navigator program for maneuvering through the directories and sub-directories of graphical displays; and

control buttons on a screen of a local computer to provide selecting a specific graphical display from a set of displays in a display group.

15 24. The system as described in claim 23 wherein said display repository resides in a server machine on said computing network.